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Section 625 of the 1984 Trade and Tariff Act requires that GAO conduct a study of foreign industrial targeting, including the effect that such targeting has on U.S. businesses. Targeting includes government policies that benefit specific industries, such as subsidies, targeted tax preferences, protection of home industries through tariffs or nontariff trade barriers, R&D assistance, targeted financial assistance, or industry-specific antitrust exemptions. (This list is not intended to be all encompassing.)

As background to the work, GAO staff assigned to this project would like to meet with cognizant agency personnel who can discuss foreign industrial targeting practices, particularly in the European Community, Japan, and the newly industrialized countries, such as Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong. Preliminary discussions with executive agency personnel have identified a recent agency report on Japan's industrial policy, for instance. GAO is also interested in having access to any other agency reports that these meetings identify as potentially useful.